## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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)	December 13, 2001
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The Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

### **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application, filed herewith, as follows:

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 4, 5, and 12 to read as follows (a version of those claims, marked to show the changes, is appended):

4. (Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the image data is read by sequentially scanning an image of an original in the first direction and the second direction.

5. (Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising: an image processing apparatus according to Claim 1 or 2,

wherein image formation is performed by providing a color image from the image data determined to include the chromatic color by said image processing apparatus, and providing a monochromatic image from image data other than the determined image data.

12. (Amended) A method according to Claim 9 or 10, wherein the image data is read by sequentially scanning an image of an original in the first direction and the second direction.

#### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-13 are pending for examination, with claims 4, 5 and 12 having been amended, to remove improper multiple dependencies.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicant

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# VERSION MARKED TO SHOW CLAIM CHANGES

- 4. (Amended) An image processing apparatus according to [any one of Claims 1 through 3] Claim 1 or 2, wherein the image data is read by sequentially scanning an image of an original in the first direction and the second direction.
- (Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
   an image processing apparatus according to [any one of Claims 1 through 4]
   Claim 1 or 2,

wherein image formation is performed by providing a color image from the image data determined to include the chromatic color by said image processing apparatus, and providing a monochromatic image from image data other than the determined image data.

12. (Amended) A method according to [any one of Claims 9 through 11]

<u>Claim 9 or 10</u>, wherein the image data is read by sequentially scanning an image of an original in the first direction and the second direction.

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